

Wisconsin Urban Forestry Council Minutes

DATCP, Madison WI

November 30, 2005

Attendance:

Voting members: Bruce Allison, Tim Bauknecht, Bob Dahl, Matt Duvall, Jeff Edgar, John Gall, Jeff Gorman, Leif Hubbard, Dave Liska, Mike Maddox, Heather Mann, Mike Michlig, Ken Ottman, Joan Stevens, Dan Traas, and Dick Welch.

Ex – officio, non-voting members: Dick Rideout

Non-voting guests: Cindy Casey, Jane Cummings Carlson, Paul DeLong, Brian Kuhn, Logan Nelson, Jeff Roe, Ken Simons, Melody Walker, Mark Weaver, Darrell Zastrow

Absent members: Bob Brush, Lisa Burban, Wayne Glowac, Laura Jull, Joe Wilson.

Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order

A. Dave Liska called the meeting to order at 9:35 am

B. Bob Dahl introduced the new DATCP Plant Industry bureau director Brian Kuhn who welcomed the council to DATCP. The guests and council members were introduced.

C. Jeff Edgar moved to accept the minutes of the last meeting, Leif Hubbard seconded. Motion passed

2. Urban Forestry Invasives BMPs

Ken Ottman summarized the Wisconsin Council on Forestry proposal to develop forestry invasives BMPs with four separate tracks: Forestry, Urban Forestry, Recreation, and Utility/Transportation Right-of-way. Darrell Zastrow, DNR Director of the Office of Forest Science, updated the group that the proposal is structured with a Forestry Invasives Leadership Team (FILT) which will have representatives of all groups and will direct the overall process. Each track would have an advisory group that would provide input on its own track. Existing DNR staff, a proposed DNR LTE and others would be charged with drafting the BMPs and the advisory groups would review and direct the writing. The plan is to start with the Forestry tract and follow with the other tracts so staff can realistically support all tracks.

Questions resulted in further details:

- The term “invasives” will include invasive plants, diseases and insects
- FILT and staff will support all tracks not just the first Forestry track
- A UW Extension Basin Educator has volunteered to facilitate (not lead) the meetings and actions of the urban forestry advisory group
- The next steps are to vote on whether the council should serve to lead the urban forestry track and then appoint a leader and a few key members to work with FILT.

Joan Stevens moved, Dan Traas seconded, that the council serve as the advisory group for the urban forestry invasives track. The motion passed unanimously.

Ken Ottman and Dave Liska volunteered to serve on the group and Jeff Edgar said he would find someone from the WI Green Industry Federation to serve. It was suggested that Dave Liska approach Dr. Laura Jull to serve as leader and he agreed.

Chief State Forester Paul DeLong thanked the group and reiterated that the Wisconsin Council on Forestry does and will support all tracks. He went on to discuss other issues regarding the 2007-09 state budget which is in the first stages of development. The climate remains “challenging” but he feels that we have rounded the corner. Funding the urban forestry grant manager with state funds will be revisited and urban forestry issues are being considered at the department level as part of the Conserve Wisconsin initiative. At the federal level, DeLong advised that the benefits of urban forestry need to be better

articulated to our congressional delegation and congressional champions need to be identified to reverse urban forestry's downward budget trend at the Forest Service.

3. DNR Report

A. Rideout presented the Financial Report. Ken Ottman moved and Dick Welch seconded approval of the report. The motion passed

B. Rideout encouraged the council to consider a significant urban forestry initiative for the 2007-09 budget which is now under development.

C. A bill proposing a statute change to allow the DNR to provide emergency urban forestry storm response grants is under development by Rep. Mary Williams and Sen. Dan Kapanke. A letter will soon be circulated in the legislature asking for co-sponsors prior to introduction. A copy of the bill was emailed to the council members for their information and action if they choose. The bill will allow DNR to provide grants both more quickly and without match after a catastrophic storm. The details of how this will be administered will be developed in administrative rules if the bill passes. The council and the public will have opportunity to have input at several stages during this development and adoption stage.

D. Personnel status:

1. Candidates for the Regional Forestry Leader position in Southeast (vice-Dick Denney) are being interviewed today. Dave Liska was involved in rating the applications and Joe Wilson is on the interview panel so urban forestry is playing a significant role in the hiring process.

2. The Southeast Regional UF Coordinator position has been approved to fill at the region and is in Madison for approval. The region is going ahead with the process so as not to delay the hiring process waiting for the Regional Forestry Leader to come on board.

3. Kathy Esposito resigned in October. With the planned third LTE, Dick is now rearranging the job duties of the 3 positions. Dick is looking for a way to provide both increased and more consistent (i.e. less turnover) service to the council. Increasing the percent time of one of the LTEs is one option. The idea of contracting was also discussed and will be explored. Other ideas on how to maintain more continuity were welcomed.

E. To get the agenda back on schedule Cindy Casey deferred her regional report and will submit a written report to the council.

4. Nomination Committee

A. Jeff presented a slate of Logan Nelson of Blue Sky Tree Care and Mark Weaver of the National Park Service to fill two vacancies on the council. Dan Traas moved and Joan Stevens seconded to approve the slate and forward them to the State Forester and DNR Secretary for appointment. The motion passed.

B. Dave requested nominations for Council Awards. These are needed ASAP so they can be reviewed, selected, recipients invited and plaques made in time for the presentation at the annual conference.

C. Dave and Jeff describe the proposed change to the council bylaws splitting the Nomination committee into the Nomination and Orientation committee and the Urban Forestry Annual Awards Committee. The text was sent to the council earlier for consideration. One friendly amendment was offered eliminating the restriction of how orientation was to be done. Leif Hubbard moved and Dick Welch seconded approval of the bylaws change as amended. The motion passed. Dave Liska announced that Mike Michlig had agreed to serve as chair of the new awards committee and Tim Bauknecht and Dick Welch agreed to serve as members. Award nominations should be sent directly to Mike.

This section of the bylaws is now amended to read:

Nomination and Orientation

The Nomination and Orientation committee shall prepare a slate of qualified candidates, as directed by the Chair or to fill vacant Council positions, for Council approval and forwarding to the Secretary of the DNR. The committee will be responsible for orienting new and prospective members to the Urban Forestry Council.

Urban Forestry Annual Awards

The Urban Forestry Annual Awards committee shall solicit award nominations for outstanding individuals, organizations and communities that further urban forestry in Wisconsin. The nominations shall be considered for awards according to the criteria of the categories approved by

the Council. Award recipients, chosen by the committee, shall be presented at the Annual Urban Forestry Conference.

5. Report from the Chair

The report from the chair was postponed until after lunch to allow discussion of the EAB issue while DATCP and DNR staff were in attendance.

6. Emerald Ash Borer Concern

John Gall introduced WAA President Brian Cassity's editorial questioning the recommendation of avoiding preventative treatments for EAB because any ash tree within a ½ mile of a positive find will be removed. The WAA Board of Directors will be discussing this at their December meeting and likely forming a committee that may come up with a stance on the issue.

Melody Walker of DATCP provided information on the justification for the eradication protocol for Wisconsin and why it hasn't worked in the entrenched population in Southeast Michigan. Jane Cummings Carlson of DNR studied the Ohio research and found that there was insufficient follow up to justify changing the protocol. Considerable discussion followed.

The discussion concluded with the agreement that all parties would continue information sharing and consideration of the research that is in progress throughout the country.

7. USDA Forest Service Report

Lisa Burban was unable to attend the meeting but submitted a report that was distributed to the council which summarized Forest Service research on urban forestry issues.

8. Lunch

9. Council Attendance

Dave Liska used his Report from the Chair to discuss the problem of attendance at the summer meetings in particular and the council meetings in general. Reasons why members didn't attend and how to respond were discussed. The conclusion was that there should still be 4 meetings per year, but that there would be no summer meeting, all meetings will be in Madison and there would be no tours or other extraneous activities.

10. 2006 Meeting Schedule

Given the conclusions on attendance, the follow meetings were scheduled at the DATCP building in Madison:

February 15

May 10

September 13

November 29

11. Tree City USA Banquet

The following council members and DNR liaisons have volunteered to chair following committees:

Monona Terrace Contact: Ken Ottman, Dick Rideout

Awards Presentations: Dan Traas, Cindy Casey

Invitations and Pre Registration: Mike Maddox, Tracy Salisbury

Speakers: Jeff Edgar, Don Kissinger

Publicity: Heather Mann, Mike Labisionere

Decorations: Joan Stevens, Olivia Witthun

Educational Workshops: Matt Duvall, Jeff Roe

On-site Registration: John Gall, Kim Sebastian

Displays: Jeff Gorman, Tracey Teodecki

Dave Liska will plan a meeting in December for all the committee chairs.

12. Annual Conference

Dan Traas and Dick Rideout described the program so far. The council directed them to work on improving council visibility at the conference since it is one of the sponsors. Dan appealed for moderators as one of the ways to do this.

13. Other Business

Ken Simons of the Minnesota Shade Tree Advisory Committee described MNSTAC, how it functions as compared to the Wisconsin Urban Forestry Council, and MNSTAC's interest in cooperating with Wisconsin.

Meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm for a photo of the council for the TCUSA banquet program.